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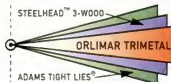


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# PC TECH

## Advancing the State of the Art Of PC Testing

**E**ach year in this issue, PC Magazine Labs introduces the newest versions of the Ziff-Davis Benchmark Operation's (ZDBoP) industry-standard PC benchmark tests. The system and graphics adapter reviews in this issue ("Professional PCs" and "Graphic Accelerators: Who's the Fastest?") mark the debut of the most significant advancements in these tests in several years. The new benchmark tests—Winstone 99 Version 1.0, WinBench 99 Version 1.0, 3D WinBench 99 Version 1.0, and CD WinBench 99 Version 1.0 (the inaugural release of this suite)—provide the best and broadest array of PC performance tests ever.

Winstone 99 uses scripts that exercise real applications to produce an overall measure of a PC's performance under Windows. This year, we have completely redesigned its Business application tests, added new High-End application tests, and introduced a new test for evaluating dual-processor systems.

WinBench 99 acts as a sub-system-level companion to Winstone 99. WinBench 99 provides detailed information about the performance of all of a PC's major subsystems—processor and RAM, graphics, disk, and full-motion video.

CD WinBench provides detailed performance information about a computer's CD-ROM system. This year, we moved the CD tests into their own benchmark program so we could address some issues peculiar to CD-ROM testing.

3D WinBench 99 lets us address both the performance and rendering quality issues raised by the latest set of 3-D graphics accelerators and systems. It measures 3-D graphics performance by using the Windows DirectX 6 API to render 3-D scenes similar to those in games.

### USING TEST RESULTS

If you plan to use these tools, you should follow the same basic testing procedures we employ. The online documentation outlines those procedures. Even after you've followed good testing procedures and produced a set of results, you still need context: Benchmark test results are rarely meaningful in isolation.

One unavoidable consequence of a new release is that the results each

benchmark test produces also change.

Those results are not comparable to the results of any previous benchmark test, not even with the results of an earlier version of the same test.

### WINSTONE 99

Today's businessperson rarely concentrates on a single application, but instead moves constantly between a word processor, a spreadsheet, a Web browser, and other tools. For Winstone 98, we experimented with the notion of testing this style of work by including the task-switching tests, and we learned a lot. This year, therefore, task switching is fundamental to the way the Business Winstone tests work.

We've organized Winstone 99's Business

tests around the most popular suites of office products in today's marketplace. Within each of its three office-suite tests, Business Winstone 99 switches between the most used applications in the office suite and Netscape Navigator. The applications are: Corel WordPerfect Suite 8 (Quattro Pro 8, WordPerfect 8); Lotus SmartSuite (1-2-3 97, Word Pro 97); Netscape Navigator 4.04; and Microsoft Office 97 (Access 97, Excel 97, PowerPoint 97, Word 97).

As a result of this new testing approach, Winstone 99's tests no longer fall into categories, so we've eliminated the category scores.

We chose the following seven high-end applications for Winstone 99, because of the range of performance demands they placed on systems: Adobe Photoshop 4.01, Adobe Premiere 4.2, AVS/Express 3.4, Microsoft FrontPage 98, Microsoft Visual C++ 5.0, MicroStation SE, and Sound Forge 4.0. All seven have equal weight in Winstone 99's overall High-End score.

Though most of these applications will run on Microsoft Windows 98, Windows 95, and Windows NT, Winstone 99's High-End tests will run only on Windows NT.

This reflects the way PC Magazine and other ZD publications test systems.

Winstone 99 also includes three new dual-processor inspection tests: Visual C++ MP, Photoshop MP, and MicroStation MP. These applications use multithreaded operations that can take advantage of the power of dual processors. Consequently, the Winstone 99 tests that employ those applications will run on single-processor computers, but they'll perform better on dual-processor systems.

Winstone 99 first measures how long a PC takes to complete each script. It then converts each timing to a score relative to the time a base machine took to complete the same script. In Winstone 99, each overall score is relative to the base machine's score, which we defined as 10.0. The individual High-End application scores and the dual-processor inspection test scores are relative to a 1.0 on the same base machine.

Business Winstone and High-End Winstone have the same base machine, a Dell Dimension PC with a 233-MHz Pentium MMX processor, 32MB of SDRAM, and a 1024-by-768 graphics resolution using 24-bit color. Because the High-End Winstone tests run only under Windows NT, the base machine's operating system is Windows NT 4.0.



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## WINBENCH 99

The hard part in creating a benchmark such as WinBench 99 is making sure its tests really do act like the applications they are supposed to reflect. WinBench 99 primarily uses ZD's proprietary *playback* technology to do this. The playback tests in WinBench 99 play back the actual subsystem-level Windows calls that Winstone 99 applications made while executing the Winstone scripts.

WinBench 99 provides both Business and High-End versions of each of its familiar Graphics WinMark and Disk WinMark tests. WinBench 99 also continues to offer tests of the performance of a PC's processor and RAM, DirectDraw, and full-motion video subsystems.

WinBench 99 produces Graphics scores corresponding to each of the overall and individual scores Winstone 99 produces. The scores are all relative to those of the same base machine Winstone 99 uses. The Graphics WinMark scores, however, are by no means the same as any of Winstone 99's scores. WinBench 99 produces the Graphics WinMark by running a series of practically nonstop graphics stress

tests; the applications in Winstone 99 interperse graphics, disk, and processor work.

The Disk WinMark, like the Graphics WinMark, comes in both Business and High-End versions. WinBench 99's Disk WinMark 99 tests play back all the timed application disk activity in Winstone 99. In the course of these operations, the tests use many directories and hundreds of files that touch approximately 200MB of disk space.

Last year, a new file-cache-enhancing driver, Disk Performance Monitor from Genesis One Technologies (IOS0.VXD), exploited the difference in working-set size between Winstone and WinBench. That driver used much more of the RAM not in use by WinBench 99 to enlarge its disk cache and thus rack up huge Disk WinMark scores. This year we've changed the memory footprint of both the

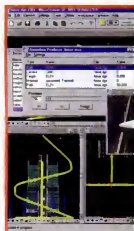
Disk WinMark and the CD WinMark tests so they are about the same as the footprints of the Winstone tests and thus give accurate scores with or without cache enhancement.

WinBench 99's new transfer-rate test lets you measure the transfer rate of hard disks, DVD-ROM drives, and CD-ROM drives. And it actually lets you see the results as it obtains them.

WinBench 99 also includes a new test specifically designed to measure the performance of

small media drives, such as the Iomega Zip Drive, by playing backup activity. And WinBench 99 also provides a processor subsystem performance test, called CPUmark<sub>32</sub>. As you'd expect, CPUmark<sub>32</sub> is a 32-bit test that reflects the processor usage of 32-bit applications like those in Winstone 99.

You may find it tempting to try in some way to combine the CPUmark<sub>32</sub>, Business Disk WinMark 99, and Business Graphics Win-



## CD WINBENCH 99

CD WinBench 99 puts all of the WinBench CD-ROM tests on a CD by themselves. This lets us keep the benchmark in packaging that will not in any way affect the CD-ROM, so we can ensure that our CD-ROM tests will run accurately on the fastest and most finicky CD-ROM devices on the market. Problems with a few of last year's CDs motivated us to make this change.

We've also updated last year's CD-ROM Disk Transfer Rate, Access Time, and CPU Utilization tests to work with any data, whether CD-ROM or DVD-ROM (though they



The new WinBench 99 data transfer test graphically shows how fast the device being tested is transferring data at every point on the volume.

## Highlights of the New PC Benchmark Tests

**W**instone 99's test scripts measure PC performance by exercising nine leading business applications and seven high-end apps.

- Winstone 99's Business application tests now center on the leading office suites. Each Winstone 99 Business test runs with several applications in a suite loaded simultaneously, thus better modeling how people work today.

- Winstone 99 includes a new test whose scripts exercise MicroStation SE, Adobe Photoshop 4.0, and Microsoft Visual C++ to measure how much the second processor in such a system actually boosts application performance.

- Winstone and the other PC benchmark tests now offer the option of automatically retrying tests that fail after a broad class of errors.

- All the tests in both Winstone 99 and WinBench 99 are fully 32-bit programs, which communicate with a shared set of user-interface

components via a Component Object Model (COM) interface.

- Almost all of the PC benchmark tests run on Microsoft Windows 95, Windows 98, and Windows NT. The exceptions are the Winstone 98 High-End tests, which run only on Windows NT.

- 3D WinBench 99's total performance and quality measure, the 3D WinMark 99, reflects the demands of both today's and tomorrow's 3-D applications.

- 3D WinBench uses many of the new features in DirectX 6.

- To compute the 3D WinMark 99, 3D WinBench 99 displays a series of gamelike scenes of varying complexity and quality levels.

- 3D WinBench's Improved quality verification suite helps you evaluate whether a 3-D adapter correctly implements a wide variety of 3-D rendering features, and new testing automation tools make that task easier than ever before.

- CD WinBench 99 provides a broad set of CD-ROM performance testing tools in a single new benchmark test.



won't work with music CDs or movie DVDs). Like WinBench 99, CD WinBench 99 includes the new transfer rate test mentioned above.

We logged the CD activity of a new set of applications to create the CD-ROM WinBench test: Compton's 3D World Atlas Deluxe; JumpStart Kindergarten; Microsoft Encarta 98 Encyclopedia Deluxe Edition; Microsoft Office 97 Professional Edition (We logged the installation process); Quake II; Riven; The Se-

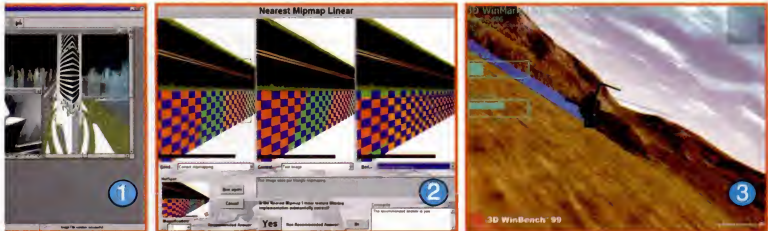
quel to Myst; and Rand McNally Trip-Maker Deluxe 98.

the time-out period. If the program cannot determine whether an implementation is clearly acceptable it will not automatically reject the implementation. Instead, it will stop the test and recommend rejection. The tester then must make the ultimate decision to reject an implementation. The benchmark test also offers a fully automated mode, in which it automatically accepts all of its own recommendations.

The program still requires you to run the

This approach is similar to what games do and allows 3D WinBench 99 to include buffer flips in its performance measurement.

The 3D WinMark 99 suite includes new scenes that are more gamelike in appearance and function than those in 3D WinBench 98. The scenes have significant amounts of pixel blending and multitexture rendering and less Gouraud shading than in 3D WinBench 98. All 3D WinMark tests require bilinear



quel to Myst; and Rand McNally Trip-Maker Deluxe 98.

### 3D WINBENCH 99

One of the most important aspects of testing a 3-D accelerator is accurately determining exactly which 3-D features that accelerator implements correctly. 3D WinBench 99 measures 3-D performance and helps you assess 3-D quality.

3D WinBench 99 attempts to determine which rendering features an accelerator and its driver support the same way games do: by querying Direct3D. To help our testers (and you) verify that a 3-D accelerator actually does correctly provide all the rendering options it claims, 3D WinBench 99 provides a large 3D Quality suite. Each of the more than 50 displays in this suite shows you how a scene should appear if an accelerator implements the associated features correctly, and then you can compare that image to the one your accelerator provides. The suite also provides a facility that can, at your option, automatically determine if the implementation is acceptable or not. The quality-test automation will pass only implementations that meet very strict conformance criteria; ZDBoP built the quality-test automation tools to avoid false positives.

In the default automation mode, the program will automatically accept conforming implementations after a short time-out. The tester may override the benchmark program during

1. High-End Winstone 99's test scripts, such as the MicroStation SE test in this figure, are more demanding than ever.

2. 3D WinBench 99's improved quality tests let you examine samples of good and bad 3-D images and compare them with images the card being tested has produced.

3. 3D WinBench 99's tests include new scenes, which employ such features as pixel blending and multitexturing. This scene uses light maps and detail maps for the ground and pixel blending in the sky.

quality tests in the 3D Quality/WinMark suite before you can run the 3D WinMark 99 tests.

Unlike last year's version, 3D WinBench 99 no longer falls back to the software emulator if the HAL cannot support a feature. Practically speaking, there's no reason to fall back to software any longer. Most modern HALs are significantly more feature-laden than the software emulator. In addition, the software emulator is simply too slow to be useful in real-time games.

Other significant differences between 3D WinBench 98 and 3D WinBench 99 include:

3D WinBench 99 uses the Vertex Buffer interface in Microsoft's new DirectX 6. While the test requires that DirectX 6 be on the PC you're testing, it will work with DirectX 5 device drivers (Some of DirectX 6's new features, such as support for multitexture hardware, will not be available with DirectX 5 drivers.)

3D WinBench 99 uses triple- (or double-) buffered rendering instead of the front-buffer-only rendering in 3D WinBench 98.

mipmapping and source alpha pixel blending as baseline features. All new 3-D chip sets should be able to run all of the 3D WinMark 99 tests.

3D WinBench 99 includes two processor tests that use the DirectX 6 null device driver. One of these tests measures the processor's ability to transform and light vertices, and the other measures only transformation.

The texture requirements of the 3D WinMark 99 tests are significantly greater than those of 3D WinMark 98. In the 98 version, only two tests required more memory than what is available in a 4MB frame buffer at 640-by-480. 3D WinMark 99, by contrast, includes many tests that will not fit in the 2MB left in an 8MB frame buffer at 1024-by-768 using triple buffering.

The standard for 3D WinBench testing this year is 8MB of RAM on the graphics adapter. An adapter's fill rate plays a greater role in its 3D WinMark score, as it does in games.

The standard test settings we will use include

- full screen 1,024-by-768 resolution,
- triple buffering,
- 16 bits of color per pixel,
- 16 bits of z per pixel, and
- an 85-Hz refresh rate.


These settings require 8MB of frame buffer in traditional architectures. The 3D WinBench 99 help file also contains some standard test settings for 4MB cards.



## PC TECH

Although new 3-D graphics chip sets should run all of the 3D WinMark tests, some older chip sets will fail some tests due to lack of certain pixel-blending modes (for example, the RIVA128 does not support modulate2x, and the Permedia 2 does not support modulate or modulate2x). When you're using it to compare adapters based on the newest chip sets, therefore, the 3D WinMark is essentially a performance measurement. When you use it on older chip sets that cannot run all of the 3D WinMark tests, the 3D WinMark score also effectively includes a measure of the 3-D feature set.

## SAME TIME NEXT YEAR

By the time you read this, ZDBOp will already be hard at work on next year's PC benchmark tests. When the programs are ready, we'll debut them in these pages. 

*Mark L. Van Name is vice president, product testing at ZD. Eric Hale is the director of ZDBOp.*

## How to Get Copies of the New Tests

**Y**ou can download a copy of 3D WinBench 99 from [www.zdbop.com](http://www.zdbop.com). You can also download a copy of WinBench 99 from the same place, but this online version is incomplete. Specifically, it does not contain the graphics or video performance tests; those tests and the files they require are too large. CD WinBench requires our test CD and so is not available for download. Winstone 99, at over 250MB in size, is also not available for download. To get those benchmarks, you will need to order the CD-ROMs that contain them.

The PC benchmark tests come on three CD-ROMs. One holds Winstone 99, and the second contains complete versions of WinBench 99, 3D WinBench 99, and Audio WinBench 99. CD WinBench 99 occupies the final CD. ZDBOp will mail you a copy of any or all of these CD-ROMs for \$5.00 (U.S., \$6 Canada, \$7 International) for each CD. To order these CDs, use the order form accessible from the ZDBOp home page or fax your request to 919-380-2879. You can also send a postcard to the following address:

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5130MB	9.5ms	5400	FB305100A	3	\$125
6028MB	12ms	4200	FB305100A	3	\$158
6448MB	9.5ms	5400	FB305400A	3	\$172
7968MB	9.5ms	5400	FB307600A	3	\$187
8037MB	12ms	4200	FB307600A	3	\$187
10262MB	9.5ms	5400	FB316200A	3	\$237
12056MB	12ms	4200	FB316200A	3	\$237
12750MB	9.5ms	5400	FB317700A	3	\$285
19002MB	10.5ms	4200	FB1900A	3	\$319

MAXTOR					
8400MB	9.5ms	5400	IRM8GP	3	\$209
10100MB	9.5ms	5400	IRM10GP	3	\$245
10100MB	9.5ms	7200	IRM10GP	3	\$279
12900MB	9.5ms	5400	IRM12GP	3	\$325
14400MB	9.5ms	7200	IRM14GP	3	\$415
16800MB	9.5ms	5400	IRM16GP	3	\$415

SEAGATE					
3400MB	9ms	5400	M9540A2	3	\$135
6800MB	9ms	5400	M9540A2	3	\$135
7500MB	9ms	5400	M9575A2	3	\$230
10000MB	9ms	7200	M9100A2	3	\$265
13600MB	9ms	7200	M9136A2	3	\$309

WESTERN DIGITAL					
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6331MB	11ms	4500	ST36351A	3	\$170
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**9100MB** 5400 IBM FB9100N \$305

**9100MB** 7200 Quantum XP9100N \$519

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**4550MB** 7200 Quantum VK4550N \$285

**6530MB** 7200 Seagate ST6530N \$360

**6530MB** 7200 Quantum VK6530N \$305

**9100MB** 7200 Western Digital WD9100N \$529

**9100MB** 5400 IBM BW9100N \$325

**9100MB** 7200 IBM ID2509N \$569

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**18000MB** 7200 Seagate ST918273N \$109

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4550MB	7200	Quantum	VK4550A	\$319	
10200MB	7200	Quantum	VK10200A	\$399	

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4550MB	7200	Quantum	VK4550A	\$319	
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4550MB	7200	Quantum	VK4550A	\$319	
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4550MB	7200	Quantum	VK4550A	\$319	
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18000MB	7200	Seagate	ST918273N	\$109	
18000MB	7200	Quantum	XP18000LN	\$999	
400	NEC	CDR3000	75	\$87	

### CD ROM DRIVES

IDE CD ROM					
Speed	Brand	Model	ms	Int	
32X	NEC	CDR1900	80	\$64	
32X	Mitsumi	CMR32TX3	85	\$65	
32X	Teac	CD352E	85	\$67	
32X	Toshiba	MDM602B	80	\$69	
36X	Pioneer	DLT1704	70	\$89	
400	NEC	CDR3000	75	\$87	

### IDE CD CHANGERS

Speed	Brand	Model	Disks	Int	
16X	Nakamichi	MS516	5	\$145	

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32X	NEC	CDR3210	85	\$88	
32X	TOSHIBA	XMG6210	85	\$99	
32X	Teac	CD3525	85	\$109	
32X	Pioneer	PL32TX	85	\$99	
32X	Pioneer	PL32TX-5	85	\$189	

### SCSI CD CHANGERS

Speed	Brand	Model	Disks	Int	
16X	Nakamichi	MS516	5	\$149	
24X	Pioneer	DMR5302	Ext 6 disk	\$419	

### CD RECORDERS

Mitsumi IDE 2x4					
Int/Ext Hard with 1.6 disk (CDR6020/2001T)	\$259/\$339				

Sony IDE 2x24 Rewritable					
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Phatjet IDE/Ext					
Int/Ext IDE (PWIRTEIT/PWIRTEIT)	\$549/\$429				

Int/Ext IDE w/ controller, software, 1 disk (CDR555S) <td>\$439</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td>	\$439				
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CD-Writer Plus 8100, writes to CDR (write once) or CDRW (rewritable) media. Packet write, 1MB buffer, 1 tray lid. 1 CD-R & 1 CD-RW drive	\$399				

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Int/Ext SCSI (CDR4041S/CDR4041S)	\$349/\$349				

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- 102428 333MHz/64MB/4.6GB/32K/5.6K \$999
- 102429 333MHz/64MB/4.6GB/32K/5.6K \$999
- 102430 333MHz/64MB/4.6GB/32K/5.6K \$999
- 102431 333MHz/64MB/4.6GB/32K/5.6K \$999
- 102432 333MHz/64MB/4.6GB/32K/5.6K \$999
- 102433 333MHz/64MB/4.6GB/32K/5.6K \$999
- 102434 333MHz/64MB/4.6GB/32K/5.6K \$999
- 102435 333MHz/64MB/4.6GB/32K/5.6K \$999
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- 102437 333MHz/64MB/4.6GB/32K/5.6K \$999
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- 102439 333MHz/64MB/4.6GB/32K/5.6K \$999
- 102440 333MHz/64MB/4.6GB/32K/5.6K \$999
- 102441 333MHz/64MB/4.6GB/32K/5.6K \$999
- 102442 333MHz/64MB/4.6GB/32K/5.6K \$999
- 102443 333MHz/64MB/4.6GB/32K/5.6K \$999
- 102444 333MHz/64MB/4.6GB/32K/5.6K \$999
- 102445 333MHz/64MB/4.6GB/32K/5.6K \$999
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- 102451 333MHz/64MB/4.6GB/32K/5.6K \$999
- 102452 333MHz/64MB/4.6GB/32K/5.6K \$999
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- 102456 333MHz/64MB/4.6GB/32K/5.6K \$999
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- 102462 333MHz/64MB/4.6GB/32K/5.6K \$999
- 102463 333MHz/64MB/4.6GB/32K/5.6K \$999
- 102464 333MHz/64MB/4.6GB/32K/5.6K \$999
- 102465 333MHz/64MB/4.6GB/32K/5.6K \$999
- 102466 333MHz/64MB/4.6GB/32K/5.6K \$999
- 102467 333MHz/64MB/4.6GB/32K/5.6K \$999
- 102468 333MHz/64MB/4.6GB/32K/5.6K \$999
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- 102471 333MHz/64MB/4.6GB/32K/5.6K \$999
- 102472 333MHz/64MB/4.6GB/32K/5.6K \$999
- 102473 333MHz/64MB/4.6GB/32K/5.6K \$999
- 102474 333MHz/64MB/4.6GB/32K/5.6K \$999
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- 102476 333MHz/64MB/4.6GB/32K/5.6K \$999
- 102477 333MHz/64MB/4.6GB/32K/5.6K \$999
- 102478 333MHz/64MB/4.6GB/32K/5.6K \$999
- 102479 333MHz/64MB/4.6GB/32K/5.6K \$999
- 102480 333MHz/64MB/4.6GB/32K/5.6K \$999
- 102481 333MHz/64MB/4.6GB/32K/5.6K \$999
- 102482 333MHz/64MB/4.6GB/32K/5.6K \$999
- 102483 333MHz/64MB/4.6GB/32K/5.6K \$999
- 102484 333MHz/64MB/4.6GB/32K/5.6K \$999
- 102485 333MHz/64MB/4.6GB/32K/5.6K \$999
- 102486 333MHz/64MB/4.6GB/32K/5.6K \$999
- 102487 333MHz/64MB/4.6GB/32K/5.6K \$999
- 102488 333MHz/64MB/4.6GB/32K/5.6K \$999
- 102489 333MHz/64MB/4.6GB/32K/5.6K \$999
- 102490 333MHz/64MB/4.6GB/32K/5.6K \$999
- 102491 333MHz/64MB/4.6GB/32K/5.6K \$999
- 102492 333MHz/64MB/4.6GB/32K/5.6K \$999
- 102493 333MHz/64MB/4.6GB/32K/5.6K \$999
- 102494 333MHz/64MB/4.6GB/32K/5.6K \$999
- 102495 333MHz/64MB/4.6GB/32K/5.6K \$999
- 102496 333MHz/64MB/4.6GB/32K/5.6K \$999
- 102497 333MHz/64MB/4.6GB/32K/5.6K \$999
- 102498 333MHz/64MB/4.6GB/32K/5.6K \$999
- 102499 333MHz/64MB/4.6GB/32K/5.6K \$999
- 102500 333MHz/64MB/4.6GB/32K/5.6K \$999

## SONY

### Sony VAIO

- 50141 266MHz/32MB/4.3GB/24K/33.6K \$999

## TOSHIBA

### Toshiba Equium

- 54225 266MHz/32MB/4GB/24K/10.1" \$1199
- 54226 300MHz/32MB/4GB/24K/10.1" \$1199

## NOTEBOOKS

### Acer

#### Acer Extensa

- 103763 P266/M3V/32MB/4.1GB/20K/12.1" \$5199
- 103764 P266/M3V/32MB/4.1GB/20K/12.1" \$5199
- 103765 P266/M3V/32MB/4.1GB/20K/12.1" \$5199

### COMPAG

#### Compag Armada 1700 Series

- 103056 233MHz/32MB/2.1GB/24K/5.6K/12.1" \$1999
- 103057 233MHz/32MB/4GB/24K/5.6K/12.1" \$2299
- 103058 300MHz/32MB/5GB/24K/5.6K/12.1" \$2499

#### Compag Armada 3500 Series

- 103059 266MHz/32MB/4.1GB/12.1" \$2199
- 103060 266MHz/32MB/4.1GB/12.1" \$2199
- 103061 300MHz/32MB/4.1GB/12.1" \$2199

#### Compag Armada 7000 Series

- 102955 300MHz/64MB/4.6GB/24K/13.3" \$3099
- 102956 300MHz/64MB/4.6GB/24K/13.3" \$3099
- 102957 300MHz/64MB/4.6GB/24K/13.3" \$3099
- 102958 300MHz/64MB/4.6GB/24K/13.3" \$3099
- 102959 300MHz/64MB/4.6GB/24K/13.3" \$3099
- 102960 300MHz/64MB/4.6GB/24K/13.3" \$3099
- 102961 300MHz/64MB/4.6GB/24K/13.3" \$3099
- 102962 300MHz/64MB/4.6GB/24K/13.3" \$3099
- 102963 300MHz/64MB/4.6GB/24K/13.3" \$3099
- 102964 300MHz/64MB/4.6GB/24K/13.3" \$3099
- 102965 300MHz/64MB/4.6GB/24K/13.3" \$3099
- 102966 300MHz/64MB/4.6GB/24K/13.3" \$3099
- 102967 300MHz/64MB/4.6GB/24K/13.3" \$3099
- 102968 300MHz/64MB/4.6GB/24K/13.3" \$3099
- 102969 300MHz/64MB/4.6GB/24K/13.3" \$3099
- 102970 300MHz/64MB/4.6GB/24K/13.3" \$3099
- 102971 300MHz/64MB/4.6GB/24K/13.3" \$3099
- 102972 300MHz/64MB/4.6GB/24K/13.3" \$3099
- 102973 300MHz/64MB/4.6GB/24K/13.3" \$3099
- 102974 300MHz/64MB/4.6GB/24K/13.3" \$3099
- 102975 300MHz/64MB/4.6GB/24K/13.3" \$3099
- 102976 300MHz/64MB/4.6GB/24K/13.3" \$3099
- 102977 300MHz/64MB/4.6GB/24K/13.3" \$3099
- 102978 300MHz/64MB/4.6GB/24K/13.3" \$3099
- 102979 300MHz/64MB/4.6GB/24K/13.3" \$3099
- 102980 300MHz/64MB/4.6GB/24K/13.3" \$3099
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- 102982 300MHz/64MB/4.6GB/24K/13.3" \$3099
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- 102984 300MHz/64MB/4.6GB/24K/13.3" \$3099
- 102985 300MHz/64MB/4.6GB/24K/13.3" \$3099
- 102986 300MHz/64MB/4.6GB/24K/13.3" \$3099
- 102987 300MHz/64MB/4.6GB/24K/13.3" \$3099
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- 102994 300MHz/64MB/4.6GB/24K/13.3" \$3099
- 102995 300MHz/64MB/4.6GB/24K/13.3" \$3099
- 102996 300MHz/64MB/4.6GB/24K/13.3" \$3099
- 102997 300MHz/64MB/4.6GB/24K/13.3" \$3099
- 102998 300MHz/64MB/4.6GB/24K/13.3" \$3099
- 102999 300MHz/64MB/4.6GB/24K/13.3" \$3099
- 103000 300MHz/64MB/4.6GB/24K/13.3" \$3099

### FUJITSU

#### Fujitsu LifeBook

- 102042 266MHz/32MB/2.1GB/20K/5.6K/12.1" \$1999
- 102043 266MHz/32MB/4GB/24K/5.6K/12.1" \$1999
- 102044 300MHz/32MB/4GB/24K/5.6K/12.1" \$1999
- 102045 300MHz/32MB/4GB/24K/5.6K/12.1" \$1999
- 102046 300MHz/32MB/4GB/24K/5.6K/12.1" \$1999
- 102047 300MHz/32MB/4GB/24K/5.6K/12.1" \$1999
- 102048 300MHz/32MB/4GB/24K/5.6K/12.1" \$1999
- 102049 300MHz/32MB/4GB/24K/5.6K/12.1" \$1999
- 102050 300MHz/32MB/4GB/24K/5.6K/12.1" \$1999
- 102051 300MHz/32MB/4GB/24K/5.6K/12.1" \$1999
- 102052 300MHz/32MB/4GB/24K/5.6K/12.1" \$1999
- 102053 300MHz/32MB/4GB/24K/5.6K/12.1" \$1999
- 102054 300MHz/32MB/4GB/24K/5.6K/12.1" \$1999
- 102055 300MHz/32MB/4GB/24K/5.6K/12.1" \$1999
- 102056 300MHz/32MB/4GB/24K/5.6K/12.1" \$1999
- 102057 300MHz/32MB/4GB/24K/5.6K/12.1" \$1999
- 102058 300MHz/32MB/4GB/24K/5.6K/12.1" \$1999
- 102059 300MHz/32MB/4GB/24K/5.6K



HITACHI

SONY

TOSHIBA

## SCANNERS

<b>Fujitsu</b>	
52843 Fujitsu 600C SCSI Flatbed w/ADF	\$1399
<b>Hewlett-Packard</b>	
101191 ScanJet 4100 C	\$199
40089 ScanJet 5100C Flatbed	\$299
101063 ScanJet 6200 C	\$399
<b>Memorex</b>	
54036 SFC 6120P Flatbed	\$99.96
54937 SFC 7060P 30 Flatbed	73.95
<b>Microware</b>	
54056 ScanMaster V310	\$49.95
57799 ScanMaster XSEL	\$225.35
101546 ScanMaster 4	699
<b>Minolta</b>	
46612 Dynamic Scan Dual Film Scanner	\$599
<b>Nikon</b>	
56677 Super CoolScan 2000	\$1618
<b>Polaroid</b>	
51124 SprintScan 35 Plus	\$1399
<b>UMAX</b>	
48248 Astra 610C Cross-Platform SCSI Flatbed	\$399.95
101863 Astra 1220V	129*
54475 Astra 1225S Cross-Platform	179*
40096 Astra 1200S	149*
51167 PowerLook II Day/Photshop LE	899*
<b>Visioneer</b>	
52667 PaperPort 3100B	\$59.95
53990 PaperPort 6000B	89.95
40455 PaperPort Studio Pro	149.95
53944 PaperPort OneTouch Flatbed	169*

\* After 60-day money-back guarantee.

## DIGITAL CAMERAS

<b>Canon</b>	
57727 PowerShot AS Digital Camera	\$699
57436 ZR MiniDV Camcorder	995
101674 Vixia MiniDV Camcorder	1795
57434 Optura MiniDV Camcorder	1495
<b>Kodak</b>	
56897 CCD20	999
56896 CCD80	999
<b>Nikon</b>	
55875 Coolpix 900	\$829.99
55874 Coolpix 600	\$779.99
<b>Olympus</b>	
46391 1/3 CCD	\$399
46392 2/3 CCD	499
47234 2/3 CCD	499
<b>SONY</b>	
59952 Media P81	\$499
59953 Media P81	799
103306 NEW! Media P81	799
<b>Toshiba</b>	
100966 FOR-5	\$395
100967 FOR-1	595

## PROJECTORS

<b>Epson</b>	
53877 PowerLite 5000XB LCD Projector	\$4999
<b>Infocus</b>	
101433 UP2S LCD Projector	\$4999
101446 UP7S LCD Projector	8999
<b>Polaroid</b>	
52808 PowerLite 211E LCD Projector	\$3999
49917 PowerLite 215E LCD Projector	3399
<b>INPUT DEVICES</b>	
<b>Adesso</b>	
36224 Inform Extended Keyboard/TouchPad	\$49.95
32345 Inform Extended Keyboard PC	44.95
54044 Eagle Touch Keyboard PS/2	12.95
54451 Powermouse Ergonomic PS/2	14.95
36219 Inform Keyboard w/TouchPad	44.95
36217 Inform Keyboard PC	39.95
<b>Belkin</b>	
58896 USB 3 Button Mouse	\$19.95
58894 USB 104 Key Keyboard	39.95
49333 USB Express Hub	18.95
<b>Cross Pen</b>	
52244 Pen Pro	\$134.95
<b>Good Systems Inc.</b>	
101526 Wireless 12 Pin PC TV Converter	\$329.95
35495 Optical Laser PS/2 Mouse	29.95

## Kensington Technology Group

25085 Expert Mouse	\$39.95
37865 Mouse in a Bar Scroll PC	49.95
59036 Key Trackball PC	49.95
<b>Keytronic Corporation</b>	
30090 104 Keyboard PS/2	\$24.95
40087 Keytronic Classic Keyboard	29.95
57099 Lifetime Mouse PS/2	39.95

## Logitech Inc.

102951 Craftmaster Desktop Keyboard and Mouse	\$99.95
48720 TrackMan Mouse Pad	79.95
54174 Trackman Marble Pad	59.95
48044 MouseMan	49.95
48044 MouseMan	39.95
48043 First Mouse PS/2	16.95

## Marlow Data Systems

32761 105 Keyboard	\$29.95
21467 2 Button Ergonomic Serial Mouse	14.95
21468 2 Button Trackball	24.95
<b>Wacom</b>	
101872 Intuos G4S	\$289.95

## MULTIMEDIA

<b>Creative Labs</b>	
100136 Sound Blaster LWE1	\$199.95
101297 CD Media 50/50	89.95
48233 SGI Colorado Ultra Tape Drive w/ Tape	159
48123 SGI Colorado Ultra Tape Drive w/ Tape	249
49989 2428 SureStore DAT 24 D0S-1	1899
49287 2428 SureStore DAT 24 D0S-3	1229
<b>Imaging</b>	
102941 Zip Drive Parallel EAT	\$119.95
102940 Zip Drive SCSI EAT	119.95
48049 Zip Drive SCSI Int. w/Zip Zmod	119.95
48090 Zip Drive ADAP Inter	99.95
44785 Zip Drive	109.95
103033 Zip Disk 10 Pack (Gray)	99.95
49029 Jar Drive 1GB SCSI Ext. (Ribbonless)	199.95
42316 Jar 1GB SCSI Ext.	299.95
102578 Jar 2GB SCSI Ext.	349.95
24292 Jar 1GB Disk Single	99.95
32256 Jar 1GB Disk 3-Pack	269.95
47078 Jar 2GB Disk 3-Pack	299.95

## DATA STORAGE

<b>Hewlett-Packard</b>	
100153 SureStore 8110 CD-Writer Plus	\$399
100154 SureStore 8110 CD-Writer Plus	399
48233 SGI Colorado Ultra Tape Drive w/ Tape	159
48123 SGI Colorado Ultra Tape Drive w/ Tape	249
49989 2428 SureStore DAT 24 D0S-1	1899
49287 2428 SureStore DAT 24 D0S-3	1229
<b>Imaging</b>	
102941 Zip Drive Parallel EAT	\$119.95
102940 Zip Drive SCSI EAT	119.95
48049 Zip Drive SCSI Int. w/Zip Zmod	119.95
48090 Zip Drive ADAP Inter	99.95
44785 Zip Drive	109.95
103033 Zip Disk 10 Pack (Gray)	99.95
49029 Jar Drive 1GB SCSI Ext. (Ribbonless)	199.95
42316 Jar 1GB SCSI Ext.	299.95
102578 Jar 2GB SCSI Ext.	349.95
24292 Jar 1GB Disk Single	99.95
32256 Jar 1GB Disk 3-Pack	269.95
47078 Jar 2GB Disk 3-Pack	299.95
<b>Kodak</b>	
101449 CR Media 30	\$59.95
<b>Memorex</b>	
50496 CRD 74mm 10-Pack w/ SCSI Head in Reader	\$27.95
39020 CRD 74mm 100-Pack	149.95
40020 CR-DW Disc 5-Pack w/5 FREE CD-R Discs	49.95
<b>Quantum</b>	
48943 DT IV 35/70GB Tape Cartridge	\$86.95
50561 5.1GB FireWire EAT Ultra HD	159
50562 4.3GB FireWire S- Ultra SCSI HD	289
50609 6.4GB FireWire S- Ultra SCSI HD	369
50607 8.4GB FireWire S- Ultra SCSI HD	489
<b>Seagate</b>	
49429 2.1GB Mediatech IDE HD	\$115
46139 3.2GB Mediatech IDE HD	119
50478 1.4GB Mediatech Ultra IDE HD	119
51475 6.4GB Mediatech Ultra IDE HD	119
50294 8GB TapeStar Int. SCSI Travan Tape HD	229
51435 1.5GB Mediatech Pro Ultra ATA HD	269
50433 1.5GB Barracuda 3LP SCSI	629
50431 3.6GB Ontrack Ultra160 VHD	789
50435 18.2GB Barracuda Ultra Wide SCSI HD	1119
50524 4.5GB Ontrack Ultra160 VHD	269
<b>Star and Friendly</b>	
53467 4112 CD Speedwriter SCSI Int.	\$399
53468 4112 CD Speedwriter SCSI Ext.	499
50181 4246 CD-RW 426 SCSI Ext.	599
<b>Syquest</b>	
47250 Space 128 Ext. Parallel Drive	\$199
47251 Space 128 Int. IDE Drive	199
102538 Space Cartridge Backup	179.95
48044 Synt 1.5GB Ext. SCSI Drive	299
48046 Synt 1.5GB Ext. SCSI Drive	199.95
<b>Western Digital</b>	
42517 5.1GB Carlet Retail Packaged HD	149.95*
42518 6.4GB Carlet Retail Packaged HD	169.95*

50997 8.4GB Carlet Retail-Packaged HD	199.95*
101327 10.1GB Carlet Retail-Packaged HD	249.95*
* After 60-day money-back guarantee.	
<b>Yamaha</b>	
50487 Y406 (CD4260) Ext. SCSI	\$549

## UPS &amp; POWER

<b>American Power Conversion</b>	
56178 Back-UPS Pro 650 (410W)	\$279.95
56177 Back-UPS Pro 350 (230W)	149.95
21929 Back-UPS Pro 1000 (670W)	399.95
56174 Back-UPS Pro 1800 (1100W)	99.95
56175 Back-UPS Pro 2200 (1400W)	99.95
21928 Back-UPS Pro 1400 (950 Watts)	549.95
56169 Back-UPS Pro 450 (270W)	229.95
31486 Smart-UPS 700 Net (450W)	309.95
31487 Smart-UPS 1000 Net (950W)	639.95
31478 Smart-UPS 2200 Net (1600W) PowerOut	999.95
<b>Opti-ops</b>	
101381 200ES (200W)	99
101382 420ES (420W)	149
<b>Tripp Lite</b>	
21831 Super 7 Surge Suppressor	\$17.95
61788 Isobar 4 Ultra	44.95
61789 Isobar 4 Ultra	54.95
13014 Isobar 6 Ultra	64.95
100090 Internet Office 400	99.95
40001 SmartSmart 1050 PSH	359.95
21844 BC Pro 1400 UPS (600 Watts)	119.95
48981 SmartSmart 1400 NET UPS	494.95

## NETWORKING

<b>3COM</b>	
302098 Fast Ethernet 10/100 P-Back	\$449.95
302099 500/30 Modem Parallel & 10/100 PC Card	249.95
31818 SuperStack II Dual Speed Hub 30 Port	729.95
53751 SuperStack II Switch 300 Port	349.95
<b>Asante Technology</b>	
30297 10BaseT FireWireNet P-Port Hub	\$44.95
40658 FireWireNet P-Port Switch	329.95
<b>Axis Communications</b>	
49242 Axis 150 Ethernet Print Server	\$99.95*
55700 Axis 2000 Web Camera	449.95
* After 60-day money-back guarantee.	
<b>Bay Networks</b>	
50962 157 10BT 24 Port Hub	\$649
<b>Brother</b>	
37711 OmniView KM 2-Port	\$189.95
32966 OmniView KM 4-Port	279.95
<b>Cisco</b>	
52827 Catalyst 1000 10BT 24-Port Switch	\$1049
<b>DLink</b>	
53371 Dual Speed 10/100BT SHD 4-Port Hub	\$89.95
53384 Dual Speed 10/100BT 8-Port Hub	119.95
53385 Dual Speed 10/100BT Stackable 8-Port Hub	349.95
53372 DFE 918X 10/100BT 16-Port Hub	649.95
<b>HP Direct Net</b>	
25982 Jet Express Ext. Hub Networking Ethernet 10/100	\$229.95
<b>Intel</b>	
50921 Pro 100 Card Bus Mobile Adapter	\$379.95*
105647 Onix 8 Smart Cards w/Software & Burny Disk	134.95
46533 Pro 100/100 Adapter	79.95
* After 60-day money-back guarantee.	
<b>Linksys</b>	
50927 10/100BaseT PDMAR PC Card: 16-bit	\$74.95
50928 10/100BaseT PDMAR PC Card: 32-bit	79.95
50932 10/100BaseT Ethernet P-Port Hub	69.95
50936 10/100BaseT 24-Port Auto-sensing Hub	49.95
50929 10/100BaseT P-Port Ethernet LAN Card	29.95
50938 10/100BaseT P-Port Auto-Sensing Hub	149.95
<b>Netgear</b>	
34404 FA320T 10/100BT Fast Ethernet PD Adapt.	\$289.95
10808 RGS28 SSM Router	299.95
43999 10/100/1000 10/100BaseT 24-Port Hub	219.95
53562 10/100BaseT 24-Port Hub Stackable Hub	199.95
43922 FS308 Fast Ethernet Switch 24-Port	619.95
<b>Xircom</b>	
50424 Retract 56K Modem & 10/100BT Ext Adapter	\$319.99

## SOFTWARE

<b>Adobe Systems</b>	
54675 Adobe Photoshop 5.0 Version Upgrade	\$189.95
54674 Adobe Photoshop 5.0	199.95
43822 Adobe Acrobat 3.0.1	189.95
32847 Adobe PageMaker 6.5 Version Upgrade	119.95
32846 Adobe PageMaker 6.5	549.95
50128 Adobe Premiere 3.0 Version Upgrade	189.95
50127 Adobe Premiere 3.0	549.95
<b>Apple</b>	
50128 Apple iMovie 1.0	99.95
50129 Apple iPhoto 1.0	99.95
50130 Apple iMovie 1.0	99.95
50131 Apple iPhoto 1.0	99.95
50132 Apple iMovie 1.0	99.95
50133 Apple iPhoto 1.0	99.95
50134 Apple iMovie 1.0	99.95
50135 Apple iPhoto 1.0	99.95
50136 Apple iMovie 1.0	99.95
50137 Apple iPhoto 1.0	99.95
50138 Apple iMovie 1.0	99.95
50139 Apple iPhoto 1.0	99.95
50140 Apple iMovie 1.0	99.95
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50144 Apple iMovie 1.0	99.95
50145 Apple iPhoto 1.0	99.95
50146 Apple iMovie 1.0	99.95
50147 Apple iPhoto 1.0	99.95
50148 Apple iMovie 1.0	99.95
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Order#	Model	Pentium*	RAM	HD	CD	Display	Modem	Price
Tetra Series								
#34763	8000	PII233MMX*	32	4GB	24X	12.1" TFT	56K	\$2,740
#34767	8000T	PII266MMX*	64	6GB	24X	13.3" TFT	56K	\$3,440
#30976	7800CDM	PII266MMX*	64	5.1GB	20X	13.3" TFT	56K	\$3,800
#30978	7800VD	PII266MMX*	84	5.1GB	DVD	13.3" TFT	56K	\$3,800

Order#	Model	Pentium*	RAM	HD	CD	Display	Modem	Price
#34818	7000V PI266MMX	32	4GB	—	—	12.1" TFT	56K	"2,820

#34755	4000CDS PI233MMX*	64	4.1GB	24X	12.1" DSTN	56K	\$7,849
#34756	4000CDT PI233MMX*	64	4.1GB	24X	12.1" TFT	56K	\$7,849

\*Pentium\* processor with MMX\* technology. TWindows 98

## HITACHI Notebook Computers

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#31062	Pro 630 PI233	32	2GB	24X	12.1" TFT	56K	"2,399	
#31064	Pro 735 PI266	32	4GB	24X	13.3" TFT	56K	"3,199	

\*Pentium\* processor with MMX\* technology.

## IBM Notebook Computers

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233MHz Pentium\* processor  
w/MMX\* technology 32MB  
4.6GB HD 24X CD-ROM  
12.1" TFT display

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Order#	Model	Pentium*	RAM	HD	CD	Display	Modem	Price
#35175	TP233C PI233MMX	32	4GB	24X	12.1" TFT	56K	"2,479	
#35180	TP233C PI233MMX	32	4GB	24X	12.1" HPA	—	"3,040	
#35181	TP233C PI233MMX	32	4GB	24X	12.1" HPA	—	"3,139	

Order#	Model	Pentium*	RAM	HD	CD	Display	Modem	Price
#11247	TP560C PI560MMX	56	4GB	—	—	12.1" TFT	—	"2,189
#35229	TP560C PI560MMX	56	4GB	—	—	12.1" TFT	56K	"2,640
#35338	TP560C PI560MMX	56	4GB	—	—	12.1" TFT	56K	"3,619
#35343	TP560C PI560MMX	56	4GB	—	—	12.1" TFT	56K	"3,709

ThinkPad 770								
#30325	TP770E	Pi256MHz	32	5.1GB	—	14.1" TFT	33.6K	\$3,750
#30327	TP770E	Pi256MHz	64	8.1GB	DVD	14.1" TFT	56K	\$5,070
*Windows 98    †Windows NT								

Order#	Model	Pentium*	RAM	HD	CD	Display	Modem	Price
#30325	TP730C PI730MMX	73	4GB	—	—	14.1" TFT	33K	"3,739
#30327	TP730C PI730MMX	73	4GB	—	—	14.1" TFT	56K	"5,079

\*Pentium\* processor with MMX\* technology. TWindows NT

## FUJITSU LifeBook C340

233MHz Pentium II processor  
w/MMX\* technology  
32MB RAM 3.2GB hard drive  
20X CD-ROM drive 12.1" HPA  
56K fax/modem Windows 98

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#35833	C350 PI256MMX	32	4GB	20X	13.3" HPA	56K	W98	"1,799
#36034	C360 PI266MMX	32	2GB	24X	12.1" TFT	56K	W98	"1,999
#36036	C360 PI266MMX	32	2GB	24X	13.3" TFT	56K	W98	"2,399
#36038	C360 PI266MMX	32	4GB	24X	13.3" TFT	56K	W98	"2,799
#36044	C360 PI266MMX	32	5GB	24X	13.3" TFT	56K	W98	"3,299

\*Pentium\* processor with MMX\* technology.

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#29786	1520MT	233MHz MMX*	32	3.1GB	20X	12.1" TFT	56K	<del>\$1,470</del>
Armada 1700 Series								
#32320	1700	PII 233MHz MMX*	32	4.0GB	24X	12.1" TFT	56K	<del>\$2,470</del>
#32336	1700	PII 266MHz MMX*	32	4.0GB	24X	13.3" TFT	56K	<del>\$2,870</del>
#32361	1700	PII 300MHz MMX*	32	5GB	24X	14.1" TFT	56K	<del>\$3,780</del>

New Armada 7000 Series								
#31072	7000	PII 266MHz MMX*	64	5.9GB	20X	13.3" TFT	33.6K	\$4,299
#31073	7000	PII 266MHz MMX*	64	5.9GB	20X	13.3" TFT	—	\$4,000
Armada 3500 Series								
#30380	3500	PII 266MHz MMX*	32	4.1GB	—	12.1" TFT	—	\$3,229
#30381	3500	PII 300MHz MMX*	64	4.6GB	—	13.3" TFT	—	\$4,180
Armada 6500 Series								
#30463	6500	PII 300MHz MMX*	64	4.6GB	24X	14.1" TFT	56K*	\$4,800
#30465	6500	PII 300MHz MMX*	64	4.6GB	24X	14.1" TFT	56K*	\$4,000
*Integrated 56K w/ 10/100 Ethernet TWINDOWS NT								

<b>COMPAQ</b>			
		<b>Presario 1220</b>	

\*Integrated 56K w/10/10 Ethernet TWindows NT

## COMPAQ Presario 1220

200MHz Media GX200 processor  
w/MMX\* technology 16MB RAM  
2.1GB HD 112X CD 12.1" HPA  
5.5.36Kbps Modem

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#36007	1240 266MMX	32	4GB	24X	12.1" TFT	56K	"2,099	
#32556	1600 PI 266MMX	32	4GB	24X	12.1" TFT	56K	"2,999	
#32563	1600 PI 300MMX	32	4GB	24X	13.3" TFT	56K	"2,799	
#36014	1810 PI 300MMX	32	4GB	24X	13.3" TFT	56K	"3,599	

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128MB RAM  
4.1GB hard drive  
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#36312	Celeron 333MHz	32	4GB	32X	TD	Win 95	"1,269
#36296	PI 350MHz	32	4GB	32X	MT	Win 95	"1,309
#36314	PI 400MHz	32	4GB	32X	TD	Win 95	"1,709
#36315	PI 450MHz	32	4GB	32X	TD	Win 95	"1,919
#31808	PI 300MHz	32	3GB	24X	TD	Win 95	"1,140

## COMPAQ Deskpro EP Series

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128MB RAM  
4.1GB hard drive  
1 towerable design

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Order#	Pentium*	Processor	RAM	HD	CD	Form Factor	System	Price
#36285	Celeron 300MHz	32	3GB	—	—	DT	Win 95	"1,269
#36286	Celeron 300MHz	32	3GB	32X	MT	Win 95	"1,349	
#36288	Celeron 333MHz	32	3GB	—	—	DT	Win 95	"1,169
#36289	Celeron 333MHz	32	3GB	32X	MT	Win 95	"1,369	
#36292	PI 400MHz	32	4GB	—	—	DT	Win 95	"1,569

\*Pentium\* processor with MMX\* technology.  
Celeron\* processor with MMX\* technology.

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#36516	350MHz	32	32MB	8GB	32X	56K	"1,199	
#36522	PI 350MHz	32	32MB	10GB	32X	56K	"1,499	
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#35854	PI350MMX	32	4GB	32X	8MB	56K	W98	"1,499
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Infrared capability

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#36604	67525U	Celeron 300	32MB	3GB	32X	"1,199
#36607	67525U	Celeron 300	32MB	3GB	—	"1,029
#36608	67525U	PI350	32MB	3GB	—	"1,299
#36612	67525U	PI350	64MB	4GB	32X	"2,620
#36613	67525U	PI450	64MB	4GB	—	"1,829
#33327	67555U	PI350	32MB	3GB	—	"1,200
#33328	67556U	PI350	64MB	3GB	—	"1,349
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32MB, backlit screen  
Flash Memory  
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Order#	Model	Processor	RAM	HD	CD	Price
#36588	67512U	Celeron 300	32MB	3GB	—	"909
#36601	67522U	Celeron 300	32MB	3GB	—	"1,000
#36604	67525U	Celeron 300	32MB	3GB	32X	"1,199
#36607	67525U	Celeron 300	32MB	3GB	—	"1,029
#36608	67525U	PI350	32MB	3GB	—	"1,299
#36612	67525U	PI350	64MB	4GB	32X	"2,620
#36613	67525U	PI450	64MB	4GB	—	"1,829
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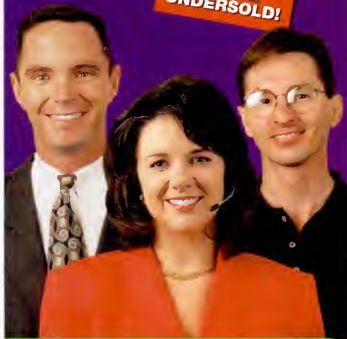
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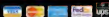
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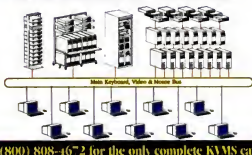
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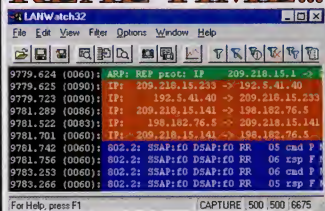
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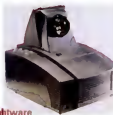


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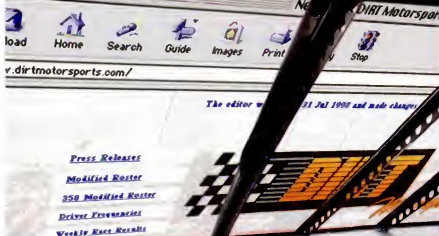
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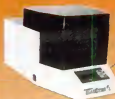
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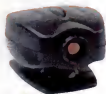


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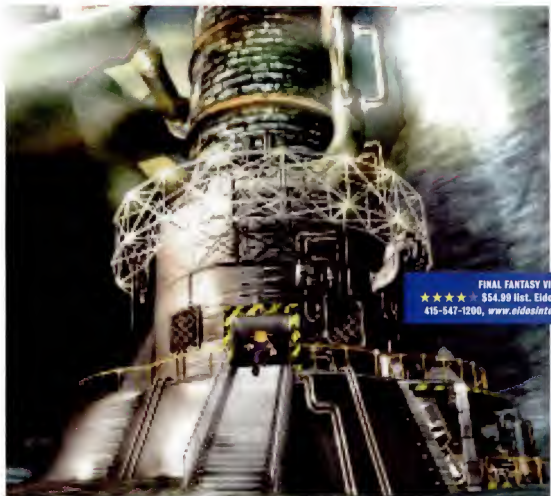
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# AFTERHOURS

THE HOME SIDE OF COMPUTING



## POWER GAMING

# High-Octane

By Bruce Brown

**G**amers revel in the bleeding-edge technologies used in new releases, including the latest 3-D graphics, full-motion video, and 3-D audio. To drive the gobs of data involved, good game systems need fast CPUs and bales of system RAM and graphics adapter memory. Games take advantage of capacious hard disks, and the bigger and sharper the monitor, the better.

The picture is clear: To play the coolest new game titles and be ready for the next generation, you need a hot PC. The six

games reviewed here (from EA Sports, Eidos Interactive, Panasonic Interactive Media Co., Red Storm Entertainment, RMC Interactive, and Ubi Soft Entertainment) represent a variety of strategy, role-playing, racing, education, and sports titles, but each gives the most rewarding game play with a high-end PC.

### Final Fantasy VII

Final Fantasy VII is the PC version of the role-playing game that ruled the Sony PlayStation world in 1997. You assume the role of Cloud, an ex-soldier out

to halt Shinra, a corporation bent on destroying the planet.

Although Cloud begins the game as a mercenary, his motivation changes as he travels and fights alongside dedicated revolutionaries. To succeed, you must master the use of the magic elements of "materia." The game's greatest appeals are the intricacy of the story and depth of the characters.

The story line is fleshed out

by extensive artwork, detailed cities and towns, an impressive real-time battle system, and more than 60 minutes of full-motion video.

The minimum system requirements for the game, which comes on four CD-ROMs, are a 133-MHz Pentium-based system with a hardware 3-D accelerator (or a 166-MHz Pentium without hardware acceleration), 32MB of RAM, 260MB to 460MB of hard disk space, a 4X CD-ROM drive, and a DirectX 5.0 sound card. For maximum performance, you'll want to install as much of the game as possible on your

PC's hard disk, so count on devoting about 500MB of disk space. The game's complex graphics load much more quickly when you have more than the minimum required memory.

The graphics in the PC version of Final Fantasy VII aren't as smooth as they are on the PlayStation, but the video clips are comparable and the combat sequences are better (thanks to 3-D acceleration). With its captivating story and numerous plotlines, Final Fantasy VII is a keeper.

### NHRA Drag Racing

Do you hanker to sit behind the controls of a thundering road rocket, where the major challenge is to go very straight, very fast, without blowing up or hitting anything?

NHRA Drag Racing is an

#### BLUE'S CLUES

The super popular TV canine makes

her PC debut with an adventure game and an activity title. *Page 406.*



#### OUT OF THIS WORLD

Independence War is a superior space combat game. *Page 406.*

#### LANGUAGES MADE EASY

Kaplan's Spanish and French for the Real World give beginning students a head start. *Page 408.*



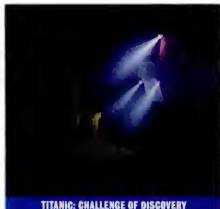
# AFTER HOURS



**NHRA DRAG RACING**  
★★★★☆ \$49.95 list. RMC Interactive,  
800-762-8443, [www.mindmagic.com](http://www.mindmagic.com).



**REDLINE RACER**  
★★★★☆ \$49.95 direct. Ubi Soft Entertainment,  
800-824-7636, [www.ubisoft.com](http://www.ubisoft.com).



**TITANIC: CHALLENGE OF DISCOVERY**  
★★★★★ \$29.99 list. Panasonic  
Interactive Media Co.,  
888-763-4433, [www.plmcom.com](http://www.plmcom.com).

action and strategy game in which choosing your crew chief and properly tuning the engine of your dragster or funny car are as important to winning as hand/eye coordination. This thriller makes good use of 3-D graphics and digital 3-D audio, recorded live at NHRA events. Once you get the hang of the game play, you can select day or night events at 19 different NHRA racetracks, picking out single races or working through a full season.

Hardware 3-D graphics is a must. A 133-MHz Pentium sys-



tem with 32MB of RAM, a 4MB 3-D graphics card, a DirectX 5.2-compatible audio card, and a 2X CD-ROM drive will get you started, but the recommended system is at least a 200-MHz Pentium with 64MB of RAM, an 8MB 3-D graphics card, a 4X or faster CD-ROM drive, and a joystick or steering wheel with pedals. The Windows 95/98 game includes the required DirectX 5.2 and DirectMedia. Force feedback is not supported, however.

The energy and sound of real-life drag racing are evident

throughout, but the user controls and the structure of the game aren't readily apparent. To go very far with NHRA Drag Racing, you'll need to spend time learning the program basics, but as in the real world of racing, preparation and practice pay off.

## Redline Racer

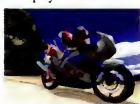
With velvety smooth graphics and detailed backgrounds, Redline Racer is an outstanding example of a fast-action 3-D playing environment. From across the room it looks like full-motion video.

In the course of play, you qualify and choose from 8 Super GT motorcycles, 16 animated male and female characters, and 10 different tracks. The bikes are fast and handle wonderfully as long as you can keep them on course; good hand/eye coordination pays off here.

Plentiful 3-D graphics effects such as sparks, smoke, sun glare, and physics-based motion modeling all add to the excitement, with the base animation sequences running at 60 frames per second. The sounds of the bikes and music from a choice of five sound tracks add to the tension.

System requirements start with a 3-D accelerator card and a Windows 95/98 PC. As little as 16MB of RAM on a 133-MHz Pentium-based system is sufficient with a 3Dfx card, but a

166-MHz PC is needed for any other 3-D board. To get the most from the game, the recommended configuration is at least a 200-MHz Pentium system with a PCI or AGP Direct3D 3Dfx graphics card and 32MB of RAM. Force-feedback controllers are supported but optional, as are Direct3D Sound and Aureal A3D surround sound. Up to eight players can join in via the Internet, a network, or a modem, or through a direct PC connection.



Easy to play but challenging as well, Redline Racer is a top choice for anyone who enjoys the feel of speeding

along streets, highways, tracks, and beaches. Winning requires choosing the right bike for each track, but the fun starts as soon as you load the game.

## What It Takes to Play

To test these power-loving, resource-hungry games, we acquired test systems from Gateway (800-846-4208, [www.gateway.com](http://www.gateway.com)) and Micron Electronics (800-209-9686, [www.micron.com](http://www.micron.com)). The configuration specs of the recommended systems follow, with pricing obtained just before press time.

Both companies sent systems based on 400-MHz Pentium II processors in medium tower cases. Each computer came with 128MB of 100-MHz SDRAM, a 14.4GB 7,200-rpm Ultra ATA hard disk, a monitor nominally measuring 19 inches diagonally, integrated 64-bit audio, and a U.S. Robotics 56K Win-modem. Each PC ran Microsoft Windows 98.

The hardware high points of the Gateway G6-400 (\$2,738 direct) included a Toshiba DVD II drive, the STB Velocity 128ZX (an 8MB AGP graphics accelerator), a 12MB 3Dfx Voodoo2 3-D accelerator, and Boston Acoustics BA635 speakers with subwoofer.

The Micron Millennia 400 MAX (\$2,899 direct) was outfitted with a 32X CD-ROM drive, an 8MB Real 3D Starfighter I740 AGP graphics adapter, a 12MB Diamond Monster 3D II accelerator, and Advent AV390PL Powered Partner speakers with subwoofer.—BB

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# Gizmos98



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ity graphics and video.

In *Titanic: Challenge of Discovery*, you play the role of an expedition leader on a series of missions. Using accurate renderings of the shipwreck sites where Ballard and his crews discovered the ancient Roman vessel *Isis*, the WWII German battleship *Bismarck*, and finally the *Titanic*, the game teaches people-management, research skills, history, and oceanography.

It also gives you a chance to operate realistic and technically accurate simulations of the specialty equipment used in underwater exploration.

You can run this game on a fairly low-end 120-MHz Pentium system with just 16MB of RAM and a 2MB video card, but when you use it with a well-stocked PC, particularly with hardware 3-D graphics acceleration, the experience is heightened considerably.



ened considerably.

The benefits of a powerful PC emerge when you monitor remote and human-operated submersible equipment searching the ocean depths. The real-time 3-D visual effects, accompanied by realistic audio, vividly capture the underwater experience. The video sequences and graphic renderings of land and ship scenes are impressive, but the underwater visual effects are the real payoff with this game.

## Tom Clancy's Rainbow Six

Tired of first-person shooters where you run through mazes blasting at everything that moves? Tom Clancy's *Rainbow*



**TOM CLANCY'S RAINBOW SIX**  
★★★★★ \$49.95 list. Red Storm Entertainment,  
819-460-1776, [www.redstorm.com](http://www.redstorm.com).

Six combines strategy and first-person gaming with great graphics.

As the leader of an antiterrorist unit, you must successfully complete a series of 16 missions. For each, you choose the members of your assault team and select weaponry and equipment. The specific battle plan is mapped out for the first 4 missions (including the rules of operation), but you are on your own planning the remaining 12 sorties. Artificial intelligence controls the actions and movements of the other members of your team and of your terrorist objectives.

Your first reaction may be to get on with the game and shortcut the essential planning, but that way leads to defeat. After extensive planning, you commence your missions, where the game's high-powered 3-D graphics pay off. Movement is smooth, sound effects are realistic, and the background music adds to the suspense.

The minimum configuration is a 166-MHz Pentium system with 16MB of RAM and 1MB video memory, hardware graphics acceleration, and a 4X CD-ROM drive, with approximately 100MB of disk space allotted for a minimal installation with



saved game files, but that kind of setup will keep you waiting. The recommended system is at least a 200-MHz Pentium MMX PC with 32MB of RAM and Direct3D-compatible graphics acceleration, using 329MB of hard disk space for a maximum installation of game elements, with another 40MB to 50MB for saved files.

A fairly difficult game, *Rainbow Six* rewards your time and effort with a high degree of realism and involvement.

## World Cup 98

Here's a sports title with graphics and audio so realistic that casual passersby will be convinced they are watching an international soccer game—that is, if the game is being played on a speedy PC.

*World Cup 98* lets you choose from the 32 national teams that competed in this year's tournament, held in

France. Games can be played in any of ten stadiums, using the real two-stage tournament format. The game play is fast and flexible, with a wide variety of realistic moves and fakes. Practice mode lets you work on your skills, but the excitement builds quickly during matches.

More than 850 play-



**WORLD CUP 98**  
★★★★★ \$39.95 list. EA Sports, 800-245-4525,  
[www.easports.com](http://www.easports.com).

er movements captured from U.S. professional soccer players are included in the game, along with savvy goalies. You can lower the speed of the game as you learn the moves, then crank it up as you gain expertise. Audio play-by-play commentary adds realism. New in this version of the game are team management and strategy options, for those who want to go beyond simple run/pass/run/shoot soccer.

A relatively paltry 100-MHz Pentium PC with 16MB of RAM, a 1MB PCI or AGP graphics card with a DirectDraw



5.0 driver, a 4X CD-ROM drive, and an audio card with a DirectX-compatible driver is all you need to run the game, but a 166-MHz PC with 32MB of RAM, an 8X CD-ROM drive, and a 3Dfx

or PowerVR 3-D graphics accelerator brings the game to life. And once you've played the game with graphics acceleration, you'll agree that's it's the only way to go. To speed up game play, it's advisable to do a full install, requiring 20MB of hard disk space.

With country-specific crowd chants, players recognizable to soccer fans, and uncannily realistic body movements, this is one PC game that's as much fun to watch as it is to play.



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## EARLY LEARNING

## Love Those Blues

By Jennifer Triverio

Though she may not be as familiar to you as your childhood favorites Big Bird and Cookie Monster, the beloved spotted dog Blue (of Nickelodeon's television show "Blue's Clues") may well be at the top of your youngster's list. Blue takes center stage in two games from Humongous Entertainment, Blue's Birthday Adventure, Blue's ABC Time Activities.

The animated canine and her live-action friend Steve are the stars of Blue's Birthday Adventure. Blue, Steve, Tickety Tock, Slippery Soap, Baby Bear, and the rest of Blue's friends are all preparing to celebrate her birthday. Your child can help select the presents, bake the cake, and most important, find the clues

that Blue has hidden throughout her house and yard.

The game comes on two CD-ROMs, each of which follows a different path to the final outcome: a huge party for Blue. The red disk asks, "What does Blue want to do and play at her party?", while the yellow disk

focuses on what Blue wants to give her guests and what she wants to eat at her party.

There are nine learning activities and four creativity games on the disks, which can be played at a beginning, intermediate, or advanced level. Our kid testers loved every minute of it, giggling and squealing every time Blue

appeared on-screen. Their one quibble: They wanted to see Steve more often.

Blue's ABC Time Activities tackles letter recognition, phonics, rhyming, and word formation through seven activities that your 3- to 6-year-old enjoys with Blue. Starting in Blue's living room, kids can click on any of the characters, such as Pail

and Shovel, to launch an activity such as Safari Snapshot, Alphabet Maze, or Bathtime Rhymes.

The goal is to complete each activity successfully and earn letters, which are then strung together to form simple words. The words are used to create Blue's Word Book, a little storybook that can be printed out (it's great for coloring).

The variable skill levels make this title a winner for helping children master the all-important ABC's.



## SPACE COMBAT

## Cosmic Combat

By Michael E. Ryan

Few games on the market can compare with Independence War in terms of the complexity and sheer depth of game play. This epic space combat simulation can be confusing at first, and you will have to work at learning the game's many intricacies, but the effort pays off.

Independence War requires a Pentium/90 (or a Pentium/166 for 3Dfx mode) with 32MB of RAM. Though you'll see better performance from a better configuration, the game runs very well even on modestly equipped machines. The graphics in the game are spectacular—with a 3Dfx Voodoo or Voodoo2 card installed, the best we've experienced in a space combat game.

The game puts you in the role of a young starship commander serving in the Common-

wealth Navy. As the commander of a small, heavily armed spacecraft, you assume the role of captain, pilot, gunner, and chief



engineer, guiding your ship through more than 40 missions.

Your adversary is the Independent Fleet, a renegade group of revolutionaries bent on overthrowing the Commonwealth. As you progress through the game, a rich story line develops, in

which you learn quite a bit more about the conflict and the ship you command.

The game is quite challenging, and you will have to rely on your puzzle-solving skills as well as your piloting prowess to win. The interface can be confusing at first, partic-

ularly the piloting and gunnery displays. The commands will take several hours to master. Additionally, you may be hard-pressed to master the feel of your starship. Instead of the "airplane in space" flight model used by X-Wing vs TIE Fighter and the Game Commander

games, Independence War presents a somewhat more realistic take on space travel—one in which inertia and other factors play a key role.

Independence War is certainly one of the best-developed games we've ever seen. Although it may prove too complex for casual game players, hard-core players should find a lot to like in this title.



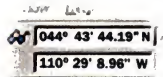


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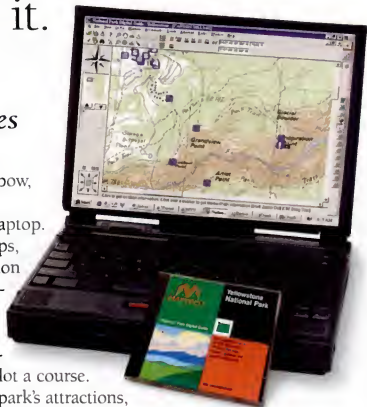
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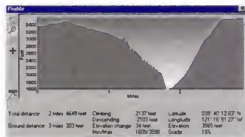
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## HOME STUDY

### Word Play

By Jennifer Triverio

That fifth-grade Spanish class you took all those years ago doesn't help too much when you're traveling in Mexico and need to ask for the route back to your hotel. Luckily, there's software to help point you in the right direction. Spanish for the Real World and French for the Real World, from the combined efforts of Knowledge Adventure and Kaplan Educational Centers, focus on conversational skills for first-year students.

Though the interface—the dashboard of a car tooling through the streets of Mexico or France—is geared to the preteen to teenage crowd, the programs



★★★☆☆ \$30 street. Knowledge Adventure, 800-545-7677, [www.knowledgeadventure.com](http://www.knowledgeadventure.com).

actually have something to offer us older folks as well. Be aware, though, that these programs teach through a combination of arcade-style games and activities; if you're looking for straightforward drills and lessons, you'll

have to look elsewhere.

Because the object is to learn how to speak a language, the disks dive right in with instructions, clues, and general commentary spoken in either Spanish or French. Though you won't understand every word, the idea is to get a feel for the language. You begin as a contestant in a road rally, racing against a host of other cars. To pass them and win the race, you must defeat them in each of six skill challenges: matching pictures of fruit to their names, for example. After each drill, there's a real-world scenario for you to practice what you've learned. After the matching game, for instance, you go to an open-air market and purchase fruit from a grocery list you're given.



Other areas of concentration include days of the week, driving directions, and purchasing items in a store or restaurant. You can stop an activity at any time to work on some practice drills or peruse the dictionary.

Although these programs do not focus on sentence structure or the written language, they give you a solid overview of the spoken language and ensure that you'll be able to play the part of the confused tourist with flair. **CD**

## Coming Up

What's in the Next Issue of *PC Magazine*

### Technical Excellence

Following our 15th annual event at Fall Comdex in Las Vegas, we'll publish summaries about the winners and runners-up in our PC Magazine Awards for Technical Excellence program. *PC Magazine's* editorial and labs staffs as well as our contributing editors debate for a couple of months, then vote to determine the winners in more than a dozen categories.

### Home PCs

To coincide with the holiday buying season, we'll review more than 20 home PCs, paying careful attention to multimedia, Internet connectivity, and ease of use. Representing 15 of the industry's leading direct and retail vendors, these Microsoft Windows 98 systems will be divided into two major categories: low-end and high-end machines.

### V.90 Modems

With the V.90 code approved, 56K modem vendors finally have a universal standard to follow. Modem makers are updating their old lines to the standard and releasing new modems with native V.90 support. Next month, we'll test the product lines from ten leading vendors to see how modems built on the new V.90 standard perform.



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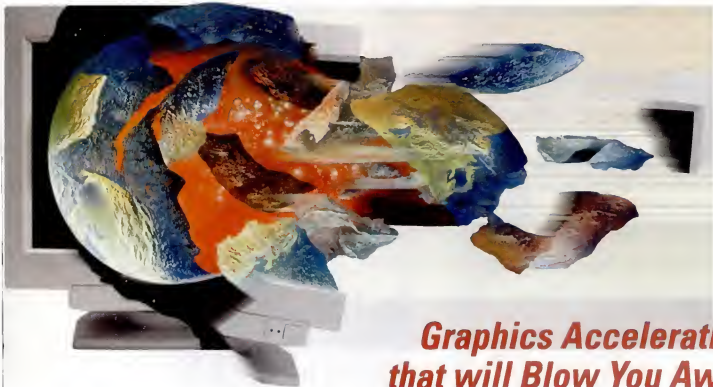
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I found the name "William Hunt Wilson" on the CD. The family tree was huge — hundreds of names! My name was not there, so I decided to contact the tree's contributor to let her know that I found the connection. I left a message, and that night, I received the long-awaited call. The contributor, who is also my cousin, was screaming on the phone because she could not believe she had found me. I was part of a "long lost leg" that the family had not heard of for over 50 years! We laughed, we cried, and talked all night. And now, we have contact every day — either by phone or by email.

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Thank you!

*Diana Yacher*  
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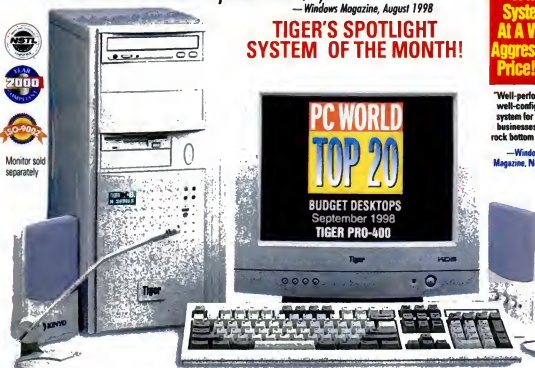
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## Rocky Mountain Pi

Let's hear it for 28-year-old Aaron Blosser, who hacked into Denver-based US West's computer system in September and commandeered 2,500 phone-answering computers to help him solve a 350-year-old math problem. Seems that Blosser ran up 10.63 years of computer time while on the hunt for a new prime number. Call it "Revenge of the Math Nerds."

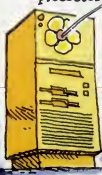
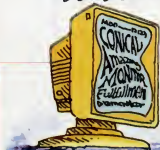
The Bakersfield,  
California,  
weather report  
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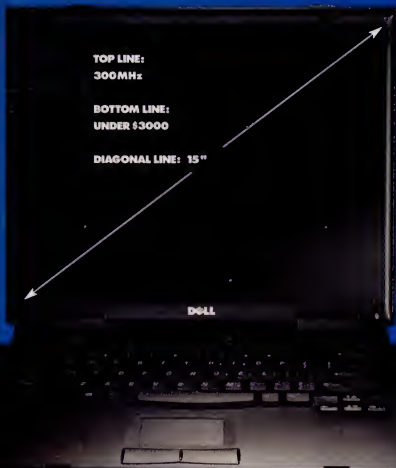
AirJet keyboard sends  
hats, wigs & toupees  
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